

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between

U. S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

And the

NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE

Introduction

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is entered into this (Date) between the National Urban League (Urban League) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). EPA is interested in working with organizations that want to protect the environment and safeguard human health. EPA has placed a high priority on protecting children from environmental health risks. Children in socioeconomically disadvantaged communities may be disproportionately affected by environmental hazards. For example, children of lower income families are more likely to have asthma attacks and elevated blood lead levels. The need to reach these disproportionately affected children is great and EPA is particularly interested in working with organizations that have a demonstrated ability to conduct effective outreach to socioeconomically disadvantaged communities.

National Urban League

The Urban League is the nation's oldest and largest community-based movement empowering African Americans to enter the economic and social mainstream. The heart of the Urban League movement is composed of the professionally staffed Urban League affiliates in more than 100 cities in 34 states and the District of Columbia.

The mission of the Urban League is to enable African Americans to secure economic self-reliance, parity, power, and civil rights. It accomplishes this mission by ensuring that children are healthy, well educated, and equipped for economic self-reliance in the 21st century, by helping adults attain economic self-sufficiency through good jobs, home ownership, and entrepreneurship, and by ensuring civil rights by eradicating all barriers to equal participation in the economic and social mainstream of America.

The Urban League understands that environmental issues and concerns have a direct impact upon the individuals, communities, and localities that it serves. It has offered technical assistance and training to individuals and affiliates in the area of environmental protection.

Some of the Urban League's priority issues include, but are not limited to: (1) children's health and education; (2) clean and healthy indoor and outdoor air; (3) assessment and clean-up of contaminated properties and return to productive uses in communities; and

(4) the impact of exposure to environmental hazards on children's health. EPA is charged with protecting the nation's environment, and an MOU between the Urban League and EPA will facilitate better communication resulting in more collaborative protection of the environment and greater awareness of health issues that impact children.

Agreement

1. **Purpose:** The purpose of this MOU is to strengthen the collaborative efforts of the Urban League and EPA in safeguarding the nation's resources and protecting human health, particularly children's health; increase the Urban League's access to information about EPA's programs and services; explore opportunities for partnerships between Urban League and EPA in addressing environmental challenges; and promote the continued improvement of communication and outreach efforts between the Urban League, its affiliates, and EPA.
2. **Objective:** The objective of this MOU is to help level the playing field for socioeconomically disadvantaged communities by encouraging more:
 - a. Communication between the Urban League and EPA;
 - b. Non-monetary assistance to the Urban League and its affiliates in accessing and participating in EPA programs, including applying for grant funding opportunities;
 - c. Non-monetary assistance to the Urban League and its affiliates in conducting environmental workshops and forums in their communities by providing publications, guidance documents, and other relevant material; and
 - d. Facilitation of the Urban League's and its affiliates' input during the development and implementation of EPA's regulations and national environmental policies.
3. **Background:** The Urban League and EPA share concern about protecting human health, and in particular, children's health, providing clean and safe air, water, and land for all citizens, and creating economic development opportunities in environmentally distressed areas. Communities represented by Urban League affiliates are faced with an array of environmental and economic development challenges. The Urban League wants to continue and strengthen its participation in federal and local initiatives sponsored by EPA and to be actively engaged in the development and co-implementation of environmental regulations and national environmental policies.
4. **Authorities and Limitations:**
 - a. Nothing in this MOU alters the statutory, regulatory, or other authority or responsibilities of the EPA. This MOU does not supersede existing

- agreements or restrict any future agreements between the Urban League or any Urban League affiliate and EPA;
- b. This MOU does not, in and of itself, obligate either party to expend funds. All commitments made by the EPA are subject to the availability of appropriated funds. Any endeavor involving reimbursement, contribution, or financial assistance between the parties to this MOU will be handled in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and procedures, and will be subject to separate agreements hereunder that shall be effected in writing by representatives of both parties. Neither party will submit a claim for compensation to the other party for activities carried out under this MOU; and
 - c. This MOU does not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable by law or equity against the Urban League, any Urban League affiliate or EPA, their members, officers, or employees, or any other person. This MOU does not apply to any person outside the Urban League and EPA.

5. Responsibilities:

- a. The Urban League agrees to:
 - (1) Facilitate an ongoing dialogue with EPA on initiatives of interest to Urban League, its affiliates and members at the National Convention, conferences, and workshops;
 - (2) Work cooperatively with EPA to identify opportunities for the Urban League to contribute to public policy on environmental issues in disadvantaged communities; and
 - (3) Be a link between EPA and Urban League affiliate communities; and
- b. To the extent consistent with law, regulation, and policy, including EPA Order 5700.5, Policy on Competition in Assistance Agreements, and the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR), EPA agrees to:
 - (1) Provide information and technical assistance to the Urban League and its affiliates regarding EPA programs, funding, and contracting opportunities;
 - (2) Respond to issues and suggestions presented by the Urban League and its affiliates;
 - (3) Work with Urban League to identify EPA programs and initiatives that present an opportunity for the Urban League and its affiliates, so that Urban League can cooperate with EPA in implementing these programs and initiatives;
 - (4) Assist the Urban League in identifying opportunities for EPA to cooperate with the Urban League on environmental issues; and

(5) Participation in national and affiliate meetings and other meetings including local environmental workshops and forums aimed at educating Urban League affiliates about EPA's programs and how to bring these programs to Urban League communities.

6. **Authentication:** This MOU becomes effective upon the signatures of all parties listed below and will be in effect for two years or until modified by mutual consent. At the end of two years, the Urban League and EPA agree to discuss an extension of this MOU for mutual benefit. Either party may terminate this MOU after providing a 90-day advance notice to the other.

Marc H. Morial
President
National Urban League

Mike Leavitt
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Date: _____

Date: _____